



**Federal Transit Administration**

# Connecting Communities



**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
AND SECURITY FORUMS**

## Is Your Community Connected?



Dear Colleague:

Just days after September 11, I had the opportunity to talk with key transportation and emergency response officials in New York and Washington, where thousands of lives were spared thanks to the quick action of transit workers and other first responders. I asked them what they thought made the difference that day. They told me that three things prevented the tragedies from being worse: 1) there was an emergency response plan in place;

2) they had practiced and drilled against that plan; and 3) the leaders—transit, fire, police, medical—had established and trusted relationships with each other. Since that time, I have made it a priority of the Federal Transit Administration to help all of our communities get better prepared to respond to emergency situations.

This is why I am urging you to attend a “Connecting Communities: Emergency Preparedness and Security Forum” in your area. These unique forums are intended to help transportation and emergency response agencies work together to prepare and protect their community with coordination, communication, planning, and practice of safety and security measures.

Our goal is that participants will gain a better understanding of the roles played by each agency and begin the process of developing the plans, tools, and relationships necessary to respond effectively in an emergency situation. The forums are designed for transit agency management and security personnel; police and fire personnel responsible for emergency management coordination; emergency medical services and hospital disaster relief coordinators; and state and local government emergency management coordinators.

Thank you for all you have done since September 11 to keep your community safe and moving. I hope you will take the next step in this ongoing effort and join other leaders in your community for the “Connecting Communities: Emergency Preparedness and Security Forum” in your area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Dorn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jennifer L. Dorn  
Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

## Can you answer these important questions?

- Does your team know how to gain access to a disabled train or bus during an emergency?
- Do you know who will lead incident command during a transit emergency: police, fire or transit officials?
- What role can your community's transit agency play during a non-transit emergency?
- Are you organized to share resources and assets during a regional emergency?
- Does your team know how to handle a biohazard event safely?
- Does your community's emergency response plan include all the right players? Can those players communicate effectively during an incident?

Knowing the answers to these questions is vital, and every community—large and small—plays an invaluable role in maintaining our nation's security.

# Be a Part of the Solution

## What People Are Saying

"Making public safety a priority is a vital component in building a sense of community, and one that must be comprehensive and long-term. The FTA's Connecting Communities forums strive to do just that, as well as give the public assurance that its first responders and transit officials are highly trained and have proficiency in carrying out effective emergency management plans."

- Mayor Glenda E. Hood  
City of Orlando

"The increased focus on security reemphasizes our continued commitment to the safety of public transportation. Heightened awareness also enlists our passengers and employees to act as the eyes and ears of an expanded security presence."

- Clarence Marsella, General Manager,  
Denver Regional Transportation District

## Why You Can't Miss This Unique Opportunity

Keeping communities safe is everyone's responsibility and the infrastructure of support and coordination between transit and emergency agencies is paramount. A seamless flow of information between agencies is just one of the many essential tools for disaster prevention.

This is an opportunity for you to understand the coordination between emergency services and transit during a crisis situation in your own community.

As part of the U.S. Government's efforts to improve homeland security, the Federal Transit Administration is offering **FREE**, 2-day "Connecting Communities: Emergency Preparedness and Security Forums" to transit and emergency response agencies across the country.

Since September 11, 2001, the FTA has dedicated many resources to ensuring that emergency training programs include the latest safety and disaster prevention information.

Don't let your community miss out on the benefits!

## Register Now For a FREE Forum in Your Area!

To encourage regional coordination, we ask that you choose the forum closest to you.

To register for a forum, please visit our Web site: **transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov**. For more information, call or email the conference office at (617) 494-3798 or hardie@volpe.dot.gov.

## SCHEDULED FORUMS

May 15-16	Orlando, Florida
June 19-20	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 24-25	Seattle, Washington
August 12-13	San Jose, California
August 14-15	San Francisco, California
August 20-21	Washington, D.C.
August 27-28	Chicago, Illinois
September 17-18	St. Louis, Missouri
October 16-17	Detroit, Michigan
October 30-31	Denver, Colorado
November 4-5	Houston, Texas
November 6-7	Dallas, Texas
December 5-6	Charlotte, North Carolina
January 8-9	Hartford, Connecticut Hilton Hartford Hotel 315 Trumbull Street (860) 728-5151
January 22-23	Newark, New Jersey Hilton Newark Gateway Hotel Gateway Center Raymond Boulevard (973) 622-5000
February 5-6	Los Angeles, California Manhattan Beach Marriott 1400 Parkview Avenue (310) 546-7511
February 26-27	San Diego, California Handelry Hotel 950 Hotel Circle North (619) 298-0511
Please refer to the "FTA Forum Group" when making hotel reservations.	

## What You Will Learn

Hands-on exercises, including discussions, various emergency scenarios, group break out sessions, video and instructor-led presentations, will allow you to:

- Network and coordinate with your local transit, police, fire, and emergency officials to share the latest techniques, strategies, and best practices;
- Understand the role of a transit agency in responding to emergency/disaster situations in your community;
- Discuss how to activate alternative transportation methods within your community during a crisis;
- Identify the elements, people, organizations, procedures, equipment, and facilities needed for an effective emergency management program, as well as understand how the interaction of these elements affects the management of emergency situations;
- Discuss existing transit system emergency management, disaster recovery, and security plans;
- Explore the interagency role in handling emergency response; and
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of community officials, transit system personnel, emergency response personnel (police, fire, EMS, OEM, and hospital), and media during an emergency.

Attendees will also receive a wealth of resources and visual guides to educate their agency's employees on the lessons learned from the forums.

## Who Will Be There

- State and local emergency management coordinators
- Transit managers
- Transit security personnel
- Fire response and police personnel
- Emergency medical services
- Hospital disaster relief coordinators
- Representatives from other agencies that are involved in transportation

## FORUM AGENDA

### DAY ONE

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Forum**

#### Topics Covered:

- Natural Disaster Scenario
- Development of an Emergency Management and Security Plan
- Emergency Response Drill Video
- Emergency Response Case Study

Following the scenario sessions, there will be group discussions and reports from each table. Intermittent breaks, including a lunch break, will be provided throughout both days. Continental breakfast and light refreshments are provided, lunch is on your own.

### DAY TWO

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Forum**

#### Topics Covered:

- Connecting With Railroad
- Threat and Vulnerability Assessment
- Biohazard Incident Video
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Terrorism Scenario

Register early as space is limited!

Connecting Communities  
Register Now at [transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov](http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov)